

NTIA Comments – Community Fiber Project

Hello NTIA and RUS Administrators,

I hope you've been enjoying reading the nearly 1000 comments as much as I. I'll try to keep mine concise – please consider the following:

1. Giving priority to optical deployments - the speed at which optical fiber can be lit is unlikely to be matched, or exceeded, by any other type of connection, wireless, copper or otherwise, in the next decade and can be scaled to nearly infinite speeds.
2. Giving priority to those who expand the reach, scope and capacity of non-commercial middle-mile networks, in particular those of -
 - a. Research and Educational Networks (RENs) - Support the expansion of RENs by enabling the direction participation of community-based organizations in the local, state and national RENs.
 - b. Institution Fiber Nets (iNet) - iNets should be encouraged to provide middle-mile backhaul to local community initiatives. Those that have usage agreements prohibiting these types of arrangements should be forced to revise these arrangements prior to receiving BTOP funding.
3. Giving priority to projects that address a community's needs much like that of college campuses – enabling symmetrical near-wirespeed connectivity between all participants.

In conclusion, it is my hope that the BTOP program will be considered a venture investment in non-profit community-centric initiatives, which as public charities, will reinvest 100% of their assets into the growth and stability of the.

Since there are few if any significant non-profit telecommunications providers providing community-wide services, it is my hope that NTIA and RUS administrators will be supportive of new non-profit entrants who are actively scaling up to meet this challenge -

Many thanks for your time and attention; I look forward to the work ahead!

Best,
- Lou

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